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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR 1922.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Alvaston and Boulton Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I am submitting to you my Annual Report on the Health of the District under your charge for the year ended December 31st, 1922.

This Report has again been modified and simplified and drawn up on the lines indicated by the Ministry of Health in a Circular dated January 10th, 1923.

Only 7 houses in the District are still unsupplied with Corporation water, where the water main is laid.

The epidemic of Smallpox in the County has necessitated immediate action as to provision of beds in case of an outbreak in this District. An agreement has been arrived at whereby 15 beds are reserved in the Long Eaton Smallpox Hospital for the joint use of the Urban District Council and the Shardlow Rural District Council.

As a precautionary measure, the Council have agreed to include Chickenpox in the list of notifiable diseases.

Only three of the thirteen four-weekly periods of the year have been free from infectious disease, as against eight in the previous year.

Enclosed with the Report is a leaflet giving advice re Cancer, of which the Council has sanctioned the circulation of 1,000 copies throughout the District.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

C. F. DRUITT,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.,) L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Parkfields,
1217, *London Road,*
Alvaston, Derby,
April, 1923.

Annual Health Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1922.

1.—General Statistics.

The area of the District is 1,591 acres.

POPULATION :—

Census	1901	1,279
	1911	1,398
	1921	1,632
Estimated	1922	1,615
Inhabited houses	1922	374

RATEABLE VALUE :—

Buildings	£4,856	5s.	0d.
Land	£2,834	15s.	0d.

A Penny Rate produces approximately £23 3s. 8d.

2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics, 1922.

BIRTHS :—	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	11	19	30
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Total	11	20	31

DEATHS :—	Male	Female	Total
	11	11	22

RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION :—

Birth Rate	19.19
Death Rate	13.62
Phthisis Death Rate	.61
Respiratory Death Rate	1.23

INFANTILE DEATH RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS 96.7

TABLE OF DEATHS DURING 1922 :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Ages. M.		F.	
Influenza ..	2	–	2	6 mos.	77		
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	–	1	1		31		
Cancer	1	1	2		54	54	
Cerebral hæmorrhage	1	1	2		70	55	
Heart Disease ..	1	2	3		69	80	86
Arterio-sclerosis	–	2	2			45	83
Pneumonia ..	–	2	2			68	69
Acute nephritis	1	–	1		59		
Premature Birth, malformation, etc.	1	1	2	3 days		20 dys.	
Violence	2	–	2				
Other defined diseases	2	1	3		75	9mo.	80
	11	11	22				

There has been no unusual mortality requiring special comment.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR :—

	No. of Cases notified.	Cases removed to hospital.
Diphtheria	1	1
Scarlet Fever	11	9
Enteric Fever	none	
Puerperal Fever	none	
Pneumonia	5	
Other diseases generally notifiable	none	
Other diseases locally notifiable	8 Chickenpox	
Tuberculosis	3	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	none	

3.—General Sanitation.

271 houses in the District are connected by sewer with the Derby Corporation Sewage Works. An intercepting sewer intended to drain 55 houses and laid in 1910 by the Derby Corporation, proved to be unworkable, and the annual rate paid for the same is a dead loss.

A temporary filter bed has been erected to deal with the effluent of 55 houses, and having proved beneficial, has been made permanent.

The brook is still polluted by a storm water overflow from the Derby intercepting sewer, which at times carries a quantity of faecal matter, etc., with the overflow.

The most urgent requirement of the District is the conversion of privies into water closets, 64 requiring this, notices in each case having already been served.

4.—Causes and Duration of any Special Sickness.

Influenza was prevalent in January and February, Scarlet Fever in March and April, and Chickenpox in August. A serious outbreak of Measles occurred in September and October.

5.—Summary of Nursing Arrangements.

Health Visitors are provided by the County Council for Maternity work.

General Nursing can only be obtained by private arrangements with the Derby County Nursing Association, but the matter is receiving further consideration.

Midwives resident in the area (1 only at present) are under the supervision of the County Authority. There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children.

6.—Clinics and Treatment Centres.

School Clinics and Clinics for Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases are available for cases in the District.

7.—Hospitals.

For Tuberculosis cases, at Walton, near Chesterfield, provided by the County Council.

For Fever and Diphtheria at Draycott, provided jointly with Shardlow Rural District Council.

For Smallpox, at Long Eaton, provided by the Long Eaton U.D.C.

8.—Laboratory Work.

Number of specimens sent to the County Laboratory by Private Practitioners, during 1922:—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Enteric Fever ..	2	4	6
Diphtheria	–	–	–
Phthisis	1	2	3
Miscellaneous ..	–	–	–
	3	6	9

In necessitous cases, Diphtheria antitoxin can now be obtained free of charge on application to the Medical Officer of Health.

9.—Housing.

A canvas taken at Allenton on July 20th, 1922, shows that 25 out of 140 houses are occupied by two families.

The number of persons in the District was 731, which gives an average of 5.22 persons per house.

All attempts to obtain a further grant from the Ministry of Health for housing purposes have proved ineffectual, and the land is now offered for sale. There is little prospect of private enterprise in building.

59 acres of land have been privately purchased in the District for the purpose of erecting dwellings made from converted railway carriages, 12 in number, with land from 1 to 3 acres each.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Name of Inspector - JAMES ROBINSON.

Area of District, 1591 Acres. Estimated No. of Houses, 374.

New Houses Erected 1922, None.

Housing and Town Planning—

No. of Houses Inspected under Section 17	258
No. unfit for Habitation	None
Representations made to Local Authority as to Closing Orders ...	None
Closing Orders made	None
No. Repaired without Closing Order	104
No. Repaired after Closing Order made	None
No. Closed	None
Number Demolished	None
No. Repaired Voluntary	52
Has a Scheme been prepared	Yes
No. of Houses proposed in scheme	86
Is the scheme in progress ?	No
No. of Houses completed under the scheme	12
No. of Houses completed during the year 1922	12
No. of Houses yet to be completed or erected	74

	Number of Informal Notices served by Sanitary Inspector.	Number of Legal Notices served by Local Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated with or without Notice.
Drainage—			
No Disconnection of Waste Pipe ...	15	—	15
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, Inlets and Drains	12	—	12
Drains Obstructed	40	—	40
Closets and Ashpits—			
Defective Privies, Pail Closets and Ashpits (Not for Conversion) ...	21	—	21
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s ...	30	—	30
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s	—	—	—
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets	—	—	—
Defective Water Closets	20	—	20
Provision of Additional Water Closets	2	—	2
Provision of Portable Ashbins ...	24	—	24
Dirty Closets	—	—	—
Other Defects—			
Paving of Courts and Yards ...	9	—	9
Roofs, Eaves-Spouts and Down-Spouts	24	—	24
Sinks	31	—	41
Insufficient Ventilation	—	—	—
Windows	12	—	12
Dampness	4	—	4
Water in Cellars	6	—	6
Water Supply	12	—	12
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Foul Condition of Houses	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	—	—	—
Animals improperly kept	—	—	—
Pigsties	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—
Urinals	—	—	—
Nuisances not specified above ...	—	—	—
Totals ...	213	—	213

	No. on Register.	Inspections made.	Notices served.	Nuisances abated.
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops ...	24	12	4	10
Bakehouses	1	28	—	—
Slaughterhouses	1	50	2	2
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging-houses ...	—	—	—	—
Totals	26	90	2	2

Infected Rooms Disinfected.—Number, 4. Method, Sulphur Candles.
Samples submitted for Examination.—Water, 8 ; Milk, none.
Prosecutions, Particulars of.—None.
Food Seizures.—None.
Food Voluntary Surrendered.—None.
Other Action taken.—None.

Alvaston & Boulton Urban District Council

CANCER.

It is vitally important that the following facts about Cancer should be known :—

1.—Cancer, in its early and curable stage, gives rise to no pain or symptom of ill-health whatever.

Nevertheless, in its commonest situations, the signs of it in its early stage are conspicuously manifest. To witness :

2.—In case of any swelling occurring in the breast of a woman after 40 years of age, a medical man should at once be consulted. A large proportion of such swellings are Cancer.

3.—Any bleeding, however trivial, occurring *after* the change of life means almost invariably Cancer, and Cancer which is then curable. If neglected till pain occurs, it means Cancer which is almost always incurable.

4.—Any irregular bleeding occurring at the change of life should invariably be submitted to a doctor's investigation. It is not the natural method of the onset of the change of life, and in a large number of cases means commencing cancer.

5.—Any wart or sore occurring spontaneously on the lower lip in a man over 45 years of age is almost certainly Cancer. If removed at once the cure is certain, if neglected the result is inevitably fatal.

6.—Any sore or swelling occurring on the tongue or inside of the mouth in a man after 45 years of age should be submitted to investigation without a moment's delay, and the decision at once arrived at by an expert microscopical examination as to whether it is Cancer or not. A very large proportion of such sores or swellings occurring at this time of life are Cancer, and if neglected *for only a few weeks* the result is almost inevitably fatal. If removed at once the prospect of cure is good.

7.—Any bleeding occurring from the bowels after 45 years of age, commonly supposed by the public to be "piles," should be submitted to investigation at once. A large proportion of such cases are Cancer, which at this stage is perfectly curable.

8.—When warts, moles, or other growths on the skin are exposed to constant irritation they should be immediately removed. A large number of them, if neglected, terminate in Cancer.

9.—Avoid irritation of the tongue and cheeks by broken jagged teeth, and of the lower lip by clay pipes. Many of these irritations, if neglected, terminate in Cancer.

C. F. DRUITT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P,
Medical Officer of Health.